

LIVERY DINNER – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018

UPPER WARDEN'S TOAST TO THE GUESTS

Master, Renter Warden, My Lord Mayor, Your Grace, Sheriffs, fellow Turners, ladies and gentlemen.

Our distinguished Master has warmly welcomed the Mayoral Party so it is now my great pleasure to propose a toast to all our other guests here tonight.

**First are the Masters, Prime Wardens and representatives of other Livery Companies with whom we have close connections.**

We have a strong representation from the Liveries Wood Group, formed in 2000 to promote the trades of its membership through mutual support, joint projects and exhibitions. We are delighted to welcome:

- Tim Solway, Master Upholder,
- James Tucker, Master Wheelwright,
- Chris Hipkins, Prime Warden Basket Maker, and
- Peter Birts QC, Master Carpenter.

All of course share a love of wood and enjoy the versatility it offers to our respective crafts. And I should like to record our special thanks to the Carpenters Company who so generously provided the use of their hall in which we hosted our recent competition and exhibition entitled "View, Love, Buy". Clearly, a number of you viewed, loved and bought your Christmas presents at this event which raised a significant sum for the company's charities – thank you.

A craft such as ours would be nothing without those who manufacture the tools of our trade, and we are therefore particularly pleased to welcome representatives of our toolmakers:

- Dr Robin Love, Prime Warden Blacksmith; and
- Nick Cragg, Master of the Cutlers of Hallamshire who we are delighted has travelled down from Sheffield to join us here tonight.

We also extend a warm welcome to Lynette Stone, Master Parish Clerk, and Dr Michael Smith, Master Fan Maker, both Companies with whom we have long standing associations. Also to Alison Gowman, Glover, Plaisterer and Solicitor who, as Alderman of Dowgate Ward, looks after our interests in our part of the City.

In most cases you are joined by your learned or gallant Clerk – we are delighted to see you all.

**Secondly, we welcome representatives of our Armed and Defence Services, with whom we have longstanding links:**

- Colonel Jim Heardman, Commander at Force Troops Command of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers;
- Wing Commander Stephen Rowley, who assumed command of MOD St Athan exactly a year ago;
- Commissioner Ian Dyson of the City Police.

To you and all our other Service Guests here tonight, we wish you the warmest of welcomes.

When I read the CV's of our guests, I couldn't help but be struck by the huge range of expertise, interests, capabilities, and skills collected in one place. Whilst maintaining anonymity for fear of any embarrassment, we have experts in dermatology, palaeontology, building pathology and no doubt a number of other 'ologies that I have probably missed.

We have hobbies that extend from military history to craft print processes, from steam locomotives to walnut farming. They include a variety of active pursuits - cricket, tennis, rugby, Pilates, snowboarding - although I assume that's an interest in Pilates as a result of snowboarding!

We also have many musical tastes on offer and I should be delighted to introduce the Master who loves karaoke to the Master who was once a part time rock drummer. Perhaps in a soundproof room somewhere!

And of course all of you are responsible, directly or indirectly, for numerous voluntary and charitable activities that make such a difference to the lives of so many in our cities and communities around the country. And for this the Livery movement and the City of London should be justifiably proud and grateful.

**Finally, I should like to welcome the many personal guests of my fellow Turners, particularly if this is your first time at a Livery event or in this splendid hall.**

We very much hope you are enjoying this evening, the food and wine, and the conversations you are having. The Turners Company has always prided itself on the hospitality it gives, and we hope you will take away good memories of this Dinner. We are delighted you have been able to join us here tonight.

Fellow Turners - please rise and join with me in toasting the Health of - our Guests.

AJS